

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



November 24, 1992

REASON FOR THIS TRANSMITTAL	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	State Law Change
<input type="checkbox"/>	Federal Law or Change
<input type="checkbox"/>	Court Order or Settlement Agreement
<input type="checkbox"/>	Clarification Requested by One or More Counties
<input type="checkbox"/>	Initiated by SDSS

ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-63-92

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL COUNTY PROBATION OFFICERS
ALL GROUP HOME PROVIDERS
LOCAL AND COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: AID TO FAMILIES WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN - FOSTER CARE
AND SERIOUSLY EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED PROGRAM RATES -
GUIDELINES FOR REQUEST FOR EXCEPTION

REFERENCE: FISCAL YEAR (FY) 1992/93 BUDGET ACT
SB 485 (CHAPTER 722, STATUTES OF 1992)
ALL COUNTY INFORMATION NOTICE NO. I-52-92

As outlined in All County Information Notice No. I-52-92, Senate Bill (SB) 485 (Chapter 722, Statutes of 1992) enacted various changes relative to the rate structure for FY 1992/93 for the Aid to Families With Dependent Children-Foster Care (AFDC-FC) and Seriously Emotionally Disturbed (SED) programs. Some of those changes dramatically impacted rates for new programs and program expansions (changes) of existing programs. Senate Bill 485 also prohibited for the remainder of FY 1992/93, the State Department of Social Services (SDSS) from establishing rates for new providers. Existing providers may be granted a rate for a new program or for program changes under limited circumstances. The purpose of this letter is to provide information on suggested guidelines to counties for preparing requests for exception for a group home rate as outlined in SB 485.

The SDSS may not establish a rate for a new program of an existing provider or for a change to an existing program which increases the program's Rate Classification Level (RCL), increases the AFDC-FC rate, increases the licensed capacity, changes the type of children in placement, changes the ownership status or changes the group home license, unless specified conditions are met.

The bill contains a clause whereby counties may submit to the Department a request to grant an exception under the conditions described below. However, there are NO provisions for setting a rate for new providers for this fiscal year.

Under SB 485, the Department is authorized to grant a request for a new program by an existing provider or a program change only if the request meets either of the two alternative sets of conditions:

Provision One

1. The group home licensee obtains a letter of recommendation from the host county, primary placing county, or regional consortium of counties supporting the proposed expansion or new program;
2. The proposed expansion or new program prevents or reduces out-of-county placements; and
3. There is no increased cost to the State General Fund.

Provision Two

1. The request for a new program or change to a program does not exceed 25 beds statewide;
2. The group home licensee obtains a letter of recommendation from the host county, primary placing county, or regional consortium of counties supporting the proposed expansion or new program; and
3. A reduction of referrals to state hospitals during FY 1992/93 will result from the change or new program.

Existing group home providers wishing to receive a rate for a new program or change an existing program beginning September 14, 1992 and continuing through June 30, 1993, must submit the appropriate rate application, as well as county prepared statements justifying the exception request. The request must demonstrate that the new program or program change will meet the conditions set forth in SB 485. These requests should be submitted as part of the rate application.

In an effort to assist counties and group home providers in meeting the requirements of SB 485, the Department has developed suggested guidelines (see attached) which may be used in the development of the request for an exception. These guidelines are provided in an effort to inform counties and group home providers of the type of information that the Department will need to evaluate and grant a request under SB 485. These guidelines are similar to the information submitted by counties in their specialized care proposals.

INQUIRIES

Counties or group home providers with questions regarding this letter should contact their Foster Care Rates Bureau Consultant at (916) 323-1263.



LOREN D. SUTER
Deputy Director
Adult and Family Services Division

Attachment

cc: County Welfare Director's Association
California Association of Children's Homes
California Association of Services to Children
Group Home Consultants

SUGGESTED GUIDELINES FOR COUNTIES PREPARING
LETTERS OF SUPPORT FOR THE
SB 485 EXCEPTION PROCESS

A request for an exception shall be submitted to the State Department of Social Services (SDSS) when an existing provider and county placing agency wish a rate established for a program that is prohibited from being established during Fiscal Year (FY) 1992-93 due to the provisions of Senate Bill 485. These include the establishment of a rate for a new program for an existing provider or the expansion of an existing program that increases the program's Rate Classification Level (RCL), Aid to Families with Dependent Children-Foster Care (AFDC-FC) rate, licensed capacity, or changes the type of children in placement, the ownership status, or the group home license. The request for exception must meet EITHER of two sets of conditions:

PROVISION ONE

The licensee obtains a letter of recommendation from the host county, primary placing county or regional consortium of counties supporting the proposed change or new program;

The proposed change or new program prevents or reduces out-of-county placements; AND

There is no increased cost to the State General Fund.

OR

PROVISION TWO

If a request for a new program or the change of a program does not exceed 25 beds statewide;

The licensee obtains a letter of recommendation from the host county, primary placing county or regional consortium of counties supporting the proposed change or new program AND

The new program or change will result in a reduction of referrals to state hospitals during the 1992-93 Fiscal Year.

GENERAL

The statement in support of meeting the exception criteria should demonstrate why the effective date of the rate action must be prior to July 1, 1993. The request should include a description of the County's current and proposed placement resources and provide data and information as described in the following sections. For ease in reviewing the request, the SDSS requests the County's assistance in providing the data and information requested in the order in which the components are listed in the following sections.

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ANALYSIS OF CRITERIA

Provision One

1. Indicate the type of request and the proposed effective date:

- if this is a new program of an existing provider, describe the program, the characteristics of the population to be served and the services that will be offered;

- if this is a change to an existing program, describe the changes to be made to the program in detail; such as increasing the RCL/rate, increase in licensed capacity, any change in the type of children in placement, the ownership status or the group home license.

- describe the type of behavior and health problems and the severity of these problems which necessitates this request;

- describe the type and level of the social services and mental health treatment services children will receive and how this will meet their needs;

2. Explain why the new program or change to an existing program is necessary this fiscal year.

3. Estimate the number of children to be placed in this program if the waiver request is granted.

4. Demonstrate specifically how the new program or change would prevent or reduce out-of-county placements:

- indicate where children with these types of problems are currently being placed and why the placing agency cannot continue to place there;

- indicate where the children would be otherwise placed if the new program or change were not available (if different from the explanation above);

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5. Expenditures - current and proposed:

Senate Bill 485 specifies that under the first set of provisions the proposed change or new program cannot increase the State General Fund expenditure. The County must demonstrate that no increase will occur as a result of the implementation of the proposal.

- o total number of children to be impacted by this request, where the children would otherwise be placed and the corresponding rate/RCL;
- o total foster care expenditures impacted and a break out of the Federal, State and County portion of the dollars expended;

NOTE: The difference between the current and proposed expenditures must result in no increased cost to the **State General Fund**. This provision may be based on:

- o ACTUAL COST SAVINGS
- o COST AVOIDANCE
- o FISCALLY NEUTRAL

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ANALYSIS OF CRITERIA

Provision Two

1. Indicate the type of request and the proposed effective date:
 - if this is a new program, describe the program, the characteristics of the population to be served and the services that will be offered;
 - if this is a change to an existing program, describe the changes to be made to the program in detail; such as increasing the RCL/rate, increase in licensed capacity, any change in the type of children in placement, the ownership status or the group home license.
 - describe the type of behavior and health problems and the severity of these problems which necessitates this request;
 - describe the type and level of the social services and mental health treatment services children will receive and how this will meet their needs;
2. Explain why the new program or change to an existing program is necessary this fiscal year.
3. Estimate the number of children to be placed in this program if the waiver request is granted.
4. Indicate how the proposed new program or change meets the requirement that it does not exceed 25 beds statewide:
 - enclose copy of Community Care License, where applicable, and any other documentation.

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5. Affect of proposal on children currently in placement:

- number of children affected;
- how are children affected;
- if there is no impact on these children, state this fact.

6. Demonstrate how the new program or proposed change will result in a reduction of referrals to state hospitals during the 1992-93 Fiscal Year:

- documentation from the local mental health agency indicating the total number of children referred to state hospitals each year, estimated number of children impacted by this request, where the children would otherwise be sent and the corresponding costs.